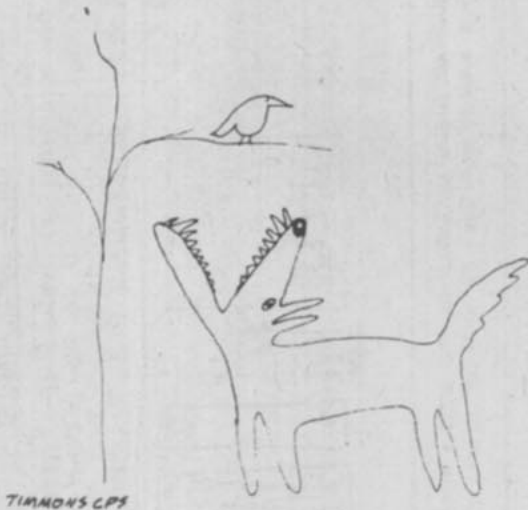


# THE DC GAZETTE

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JULY-AUGUST 1975

## After rent control Inside a DC junior high



### *In this issue*

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SAM SMITH suggests some first steps towards a city housing program. . . . Anne Chase goes inside a DC junior high school and finds that things are not always what they seem. . . . Our national newsletter rejoins the Gazette — with a special section on cities. . . . Ann Fogarty reports on the progress of the bottle bill. . . . Key votes of the city council . . . . What's happening. . . . Publications you should know about. . . . And Anton Wood finds some new problems to worry about.

# DC GAZETTE

VOL VI NR 7 JULY-AUGUST 1975

## DC EYE

### ENCLAVE REPEAL MOVES AHEAD

In what might be called the first piece of post-reconstruction legislation for DC, the House District Committee is moving ahead with plans to repeal the provision in the home rule charter that establishes a federal enclave. This provision is important because it lays the groundwork for eventual statehood for the city and advocates for its repeal include such half-rule advocates as Walter Fauntroy and the Coalition for Self-Determination (sic).

### GUTS BALL AT CITY HALL

The city council, which has been attempting to make some cautious incisions in the city's overblown budget, has been getting the treatment from the other side of the fifth floor. One of the techniques being used by the mayor and his aides is to scare city employees into thinking that there will be massive layoffs due to the council's budget cuts. Copies of reduction-in-force regulations were mysteriously circulated in the Department of Human Resources to add to the scare. Council members have been angered by the executive's guts ball approach to the budget.

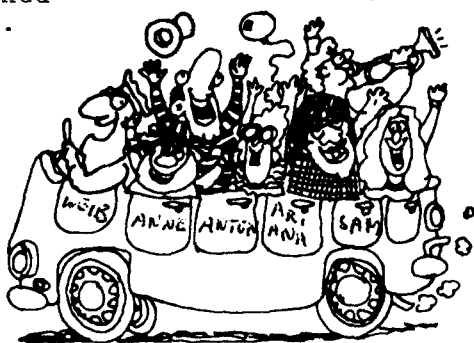
### GAY ARREST MORATORIUM

With the courts and the city council moving to restrict the police department's ability to harrass homosexuals, a quiet moratorium on non-prostitution related homosexual arrests has been in effect since the first of the year. Police have been told not to arrest gays without a sergeant or above on the scene, according to our information. If the informal moratorium continues, it would mean that 100-200 fewer homosexuals will be arrested in DC this year compared with previous years.

### CARPET-BAG GOVERNMENT

Although the city based its defense against charges of discrimination in employment on the racial breakdown of its personnel, some interesting figures developed by council member Marion Barry point out that the top levels of DC agencies are disproportionately white. Further, the chief of police, all of his eight deputy chiefs, all of the 24 inspectors, 48 out of the 49 captains and 168 of the 186 lieutenants live outside DC. At the Department of Environmental Services, only 12 of the top 150 employees live in DC; only 45 are black. At the Department of General Services only 18% of the top 53 employees live in DC, only 23% of the top job-holders in the Department of Finance and Revenue.

*This is our combined July-August issue. During July we will be working on our annual guides (out in Sept.) and in August we're just going to take it easy. Have a good summer. See you in the fall.*



URPE NEWSLETTER/cpf

## After rent control

SAM SMITH

NOW that rent control has passed the city council again, we can admit it. It's not a very good solution. Over the short run it is needed, but it is emergency treatment at the scene of the accident. If the patient is not transported to a facility where decent care can be given, the first aid will sooner or later fail.

It seems to be happening already in DC. Since 1970 there has been a steady decline in the city's population, but the vacancy rate for apartments remains minimal. This means that there has been a corresponding decline in the number of apartments, perhaps six to eight thousand as a rough guess.

The causes are numerous. Public action such as urban renewal. Conversion of residential units to office space. Abandonment and the creation of parking lots. Conversion into condominiums (until the moratorium). Conversion into larger, luxury-rent apartments. Conversion into townhouses as on Capitol Hill and in Adams Morgan where speculation has increased dramatically over the past few years.

Rent control has not discouraged any of these trends — each of which affects the lower end of the rental market disproportionately. Rent control's precise role is impossible to determine but it has, in all probability, been a contributory factor even during its short life.

It will continue to be so for the simple reason that if landlords and developers find it too difficult to make a profit in one type of housing and speculation, they don't just tighten their belts and bear it. They look for alternatives with higher profits. Rent control is like trying to flatten a balloon. You can press down with one hand, two hands, or four hands, but until the balloon pops, the air remains inside, merely changing its configuration.

The problem that neither the city nor the tenant groups have dealt with is that in order to have an effective rent control law, you must be prepared to deal with its consequences. Moratoriums of one sort or another and speculation taxes are useful, but they are defensive measures that in the long run do little to ensure the existence of adequate decent housing. Without a housing policy (and as Anton Wood pointed out last month a speculation tax, despite its merits, is not a housing policy) matters will continue to deteriorate. Hopefully, the frustrations that will develop out of the latest version of rent control will encourage movement towards such a policy.

A good place to start is with the landlord. The popular conception of the landlord is of someone who owns a building and charges people rent (usually too much) to live there. The rent is supposed to pay expenses and return a profit to the landlord.

The problem with this conception is that many landlords do not own their buildings. Their equity is a fraction of the worth of the building. The rest of the money is borrowed. Over time, the percentage of the landlord's equity slowly increases as the mortgage is paid off. But where does this money come from? Often from the tenants themselves. If the tenants went into business with a landlord in another sort of venture their contribution to the equity of the venture would be reflected in ownership and a proportional share of the profits and of the proceeds upon sale of the venture. But despite the fact that tenants often function as silent partners to the landlord, contributing to the equity and paying off the carrying charges, they get nothing in return — although their contribution is in addition to what they are paying for the costs of operating and managing the apartment. If, as the Washington Post suggested in a recent editorial, landlords can rightfully expect that tenants pay not only operating costs but the mortgage in its entirety, the landlord's contribution can be negligible. The Post, for instance, suggested an example in which a landlord paid \$20,000 down on a \$100,000 property and obtained an \$80,000 25-year mortgage at 8%. Over the 25 years principal and interest payments would amount to about \$175,000, all (if one adopts the Post's philosophy) happily paid by the tenants for the privilege of living in an apartment building in which the owner has invested a meagre \$20,000. At the end of 25 years, the owner would have invested 20% of the equity, the tenants 80% (plus the interest on the borrowed money).

(PL (Please turn to the next page)



Now let us assume that about the time that the tenants have contributed \$20,000 to the equity of the building, the owner sells the property for \$200,000. The owner receives a profit of 500%. The tenants, whose true equity in the building is the same of the owner's, get nothing. Worse, they are out the \$20,000 in principal and all the interest they have paid.

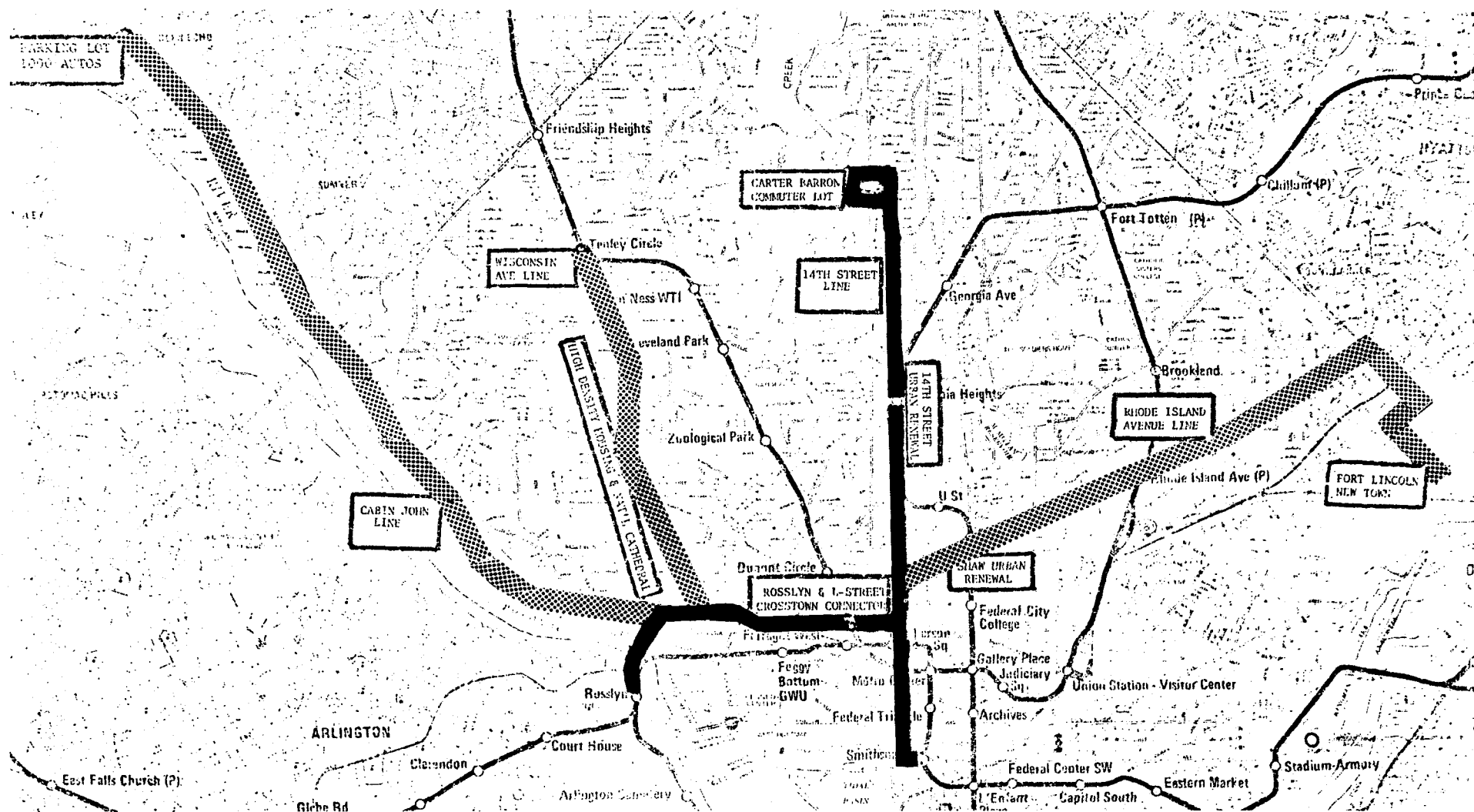
Such a system has the effect of transferring potential tenant capital to the landlords, concentrating wealth instead of dispersing it. It is a system that must be destroyed if tenants are not to remain among the most vulnerable marks for economic abuse.

If the tenants's contribution to equity was protected and

credited to them or to a cooperative tenants association, as it would be if they were true partners in a venture, the result would not necessarily be lower rents (the mortgage still has to be paid) but a portion of the rent would be in the form of equity, with the tenants receiving their share of the profits and, at the time of sale, the proceeds. The tenants associations could be organized either on a building by building basis (in the case of large projects) or on a neighborhood basis. With the tenants' share of the equity protected in this fashion, a revolution in the housing business could occur without the expenditure of public funds. Over time, tenants' associations could gain control of most of the housing in the city.

What would be required would be a tenants' equity protection act, establishing a system for the disposition and care of

## BRING BACK THE TROLRIES



BACK IN 1972, the Gazette ran one of our kookier pieces — or so it seemed to a number of our readers. The article called for a return of the streetcar as a part of a mixed transit system for the city. Since then we have pointed out to you, from time to time, that other cities were either reviving their streetcar systems or investigating the introduction of trolleys. Now we are pleased to report that what the modern transit planner refers to as Light Rail Transit (in order to provide the obligatory acronym) but which most of us know as the streetcar has received the imprimatur of the chairman of the city council's transportation committee, a consultant, and, yes, gentle reader, even Wolf Von Eckardt, who seems to be backpadding out of the planning monstrosities of the sixties as fast as he can before anyone discovers his part in them.

Old Metro-booster Von Eckardt wrote the other day in a column, "Trolley, Please Come Back," that trolley cars "not only got us from one point to another, but they also let us see and enjoy what was in-between." What brought Wolf out of the tunnel was an exciting proposal by a group of transportation planners (Joseph Bosco, Robert Harmon, Mahesh Solanki, James C. Hogan and Arthur Smith) for a street car system to serve such routes as 14th Street-Downtown, Glen Echo-Downtown, the Wisconsin Avenue corridor south of the Tenley Circle Metro stop and Downtown-Ft. Lincoln along Rhode Island Avenue. (See map above — proposed trolley routes marked with heavy lines, planned subway routes in light.)

As we have pointed out, streetcars were victims of a mentality that presumed that mass transit should not interfere with the automobile's right to go anywhere it wanted. Now, we want to restrict auto traffic and we find, to our dismay, that even our multi-billion dollar subway will fail in this respect. (For one thing, subways attract new development in concentrated areas. Despite the subway, most of the traffic to these new developments will be by car, increasing rather than decreasing traffic congestion). The creation of streetcar lines, however, would be an important step towards ending the tyranny of the car on our city's streets.

According to the consultants, the system shown above could be built for somewhere between \$30 and \$88 million dollars, depending on whether you use new or old rolling stock. For the same price you can get yourself a mile or two of subway track built. The system would be cheaper than running buses over the same routes and would save, for example, 13 minutes on a run from 14th & Kennedy to 14th & Penna. over bus time.

The report notes: "Heavy rail rapid transit or subway can carry between 20,000 and 60,000 past a point in one hour. While desirable and necessary in Chicago and New York, this high capacity is well above the trip densities of most other North American cities. Busways can accommodate densities of roughly 2,000 to 8,000 persons per hour in a corridor. The ineffectiveness of bus priority lanes in downtown areas is a significant limiting factor to the busway and average bus speeds are also lower than those achieved by rail vehicles. Light rail transit can carry 6,000 to 15,000 passengers per hour.

And the report adds: "Public officials eventually must decide whether they will continue to pursue the ever elusive growth trend phenomenon in transportation planning. Under widely accepted practice, population projections are extrapolated into some future period, and as 'corridor deficiencies' tend to develop, an attempt is inevitably made to accommodate growth by providing increased corridor capacities in the form of either high capacity rail systems or 8 to 16 lane freeways with busways as an afterthought. An alternative approach that would seem to offer a more rational public policy is to adopt transportation improvements which are more conducive to controlled growth and beneficial environmental and energy impacts."

You'll be hearing more about Light Rail Transit in the months to come. As the Metro subway bubble collapses, area officials will be forced to seek cheaper and more sensible solutions. Jerry Moore, chairman of the city council's transportation committee, has already suggested streetcars as an acceptable use for the federal money that will be freed as the city moves to drop its ill-conceived freeway projects. What's needed now is a citizens lobby for a city-run street-car system.

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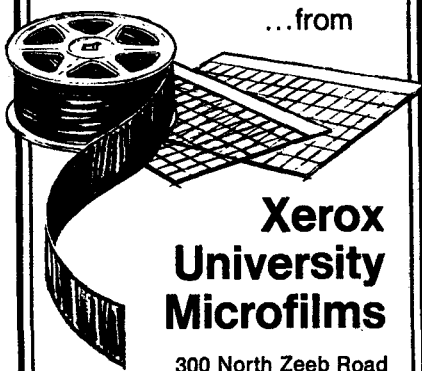
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—Alice Cooper

"School  
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—School Principal

If Alice Cooper were also president of the  
school board, maybe we wouldn't have to go  
back in September. Unfortunately he's not;  
unless someone burns the school down first,  
we'll have to be back in our seats again at 8:00  
a.m. on Sept. 9, letting them run our lives for  
another 9 months.

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48104. A little forethought now can make next  
September seem a lot more bearable.



the tenants' equity funds. In order to avoid landlord panic selling, the act could provide for only a portion of the tenants' equity to be credited to them initially, with a higher percentage granted over a period of years until every tenant's equity contribution was fully protected.

A second major element of a city housing policy should be greatly increased public funds for housing and housing financing. Doug Moore has introduced a bill that would establish an office of housing financing to provide low cost loans to low and moderate income home buyers. This is one model. Nadine Winter's proposal for a state bank would be a big help as would a finance agency for major developments such as Massachusetts's Housing Finance Agency.

Where would the money come from? From that presently ill-used pot of money known as the capital budget. While some capital budget items are essential, much money is wasted on projects that amount to little more than official self-aggrandizement in marble and concrete. In many cases these projects — fancy new police stations, freeways, showboating transit projects such as Metro — not only do not pay their way, they contribute to deficits in the operating budget and remove formerly taxable land from the rolls. Virtually none of our capital funds are used in a way that will produce a clear economic return to the city, and we find ourselves in the situation of those private schools and universities that built handsome physical plants with endowment money but can't find enough funds for janitors. Further, in some cases, our capital budget lags behind public policy. We build even after we no longer want that which we are building. It is probable that Metro would not have been started if the first appropriation had come up in the FY 76 budget. With today's money problems, we would have sought cheaper solutions. But we keep building. Another example: even though public policy is shifting away from the concept of junior high schools, there are \$70 million worth of junior high school projects underway or planned in the capital budget.

We could do better than this. As a starter, if we were to set aside \$60 million a year in capital funds for housing projects we could, for example, buy McLean Gardens for resale to the tenants over an extended period and still have enough funds left over to loan several thousand people \$15,000 for downpayments on houses. Even if we only go 1% interest we would be earning more on our money than we do when we build a new jail or courthouse, especially if taxable land has to be taken for such projects.

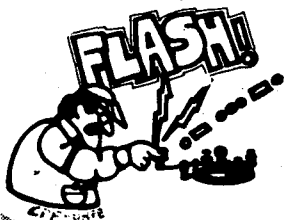
Land would be kept on the tax rolls if we spent our money on housing. The economic condition of a significant number of residents would be improved (improving their capability to pay taxes) and the pressure for housing would be reduced. This would be a far wiser use of public funds than the projected millions that will be doled out to the developer of Ft. Lincoln in the hope that he will provide us with enough housing in which to put the people who get kicked out of, say, McLean Gardens.

There are lots of other things that can be done. Some have been introduced as bills in the council and should be encouraged. Others, like having the city take over houses threatened with foreclosure, protecting the owner's equity by becoming a partner with the owner to the extent necessary, are not even being discussed. But the protection of the money that tenants contribute towards the landlord's purchase of apartment units and the redirection of capital funds towards housing are two of the best places to start.

## Metro can be beat

A recent survey showing widespread support for completion of the subway in the area also shows the support slipping when people are asked whether they would support bond issues to finish the job. For example, while 64% of those in the city support completion of the subway only 56% said they would vote for bonds. Support for bonds is only 50% in Prince Georges County, 56% in Montgomery and 58% in Arlington. Highest support was in Fairfax County (67%), which is not surprising since it is getting more for its money than just about anyplace else.

What's interesting about these figures is that given the near total lack of media coverage to the critics of the subway, support for bonds is minimal in at least four jurisdictions. A shift of three or four percentage points in a hard-fought campaign against the Metro boondoggle could make the difference.



## WHICH LOCAL PAPER. . .

POST STAR-NEWS DC GAZETTE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| X | Was the first to propose a system of bikeways for DC?   |
| X | Exposed and help kill the Urban Development Corporation scheme?   |
| X | Told its readers that Metro was a financial and transportation failure?   |
| X | Exposed and help kill the Eisenhower Convention Center?   |
| X | Has been a consistent opponent of more freeways in the city?  |
| X | Revealed major inequities in the local property tax system that later became the subject of successful court suits? |
| X | Has been a consistent opponent of real estate speculation in DC?  |
| X | Introduced the idea of statehood for DC?  |
| X | Reported extensive conflicts of interest in the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment?                   |
| X | Opposed developer land-grabs in the West End, Georgetown, Upper NE and downtown?                                    |
| X | Supported Clifford Alexander for mayor in 1974?   |
| X | Was the first to suggest a real estate speculation tax and intangible property tax for the city?                    |
| X | Was the first to suggest neighborhood government for DC?  |
| X | Was the first to suggest the reintroduction of streetcars here?   |
| X | Has been a consistent critic of the city's urban removal policies?  |
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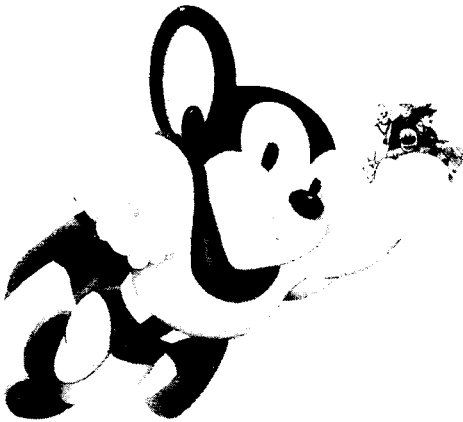
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| MIDNIGHT TO 5:30  | NIGHTWATCH                       |              |          |              |                     | NIGHTWATCH              |                              | MIDNIGHT TO 6:00  |
| 5:30 TO 7:00      | JAZZ ANTHOLOGY - TO 6:30         |              |          |              |                     | JAZZ ANTHOLOGY          |                              | 6:00 TO 7:00      |
| 7:00 TO 9:00      | READING ALOUD - TO 7:00          |              |          |              |                     | JOHN DILDINE FOLK MUSIC | FOLK MUSIC BERNSTEIN         | 7:00 TO 8:00      |
| 9:00 TO 10:30     | MORNINGLINE                      |              |          |              |                     | BLUEGRASS               | ECOLOGY                      | 8:00 TO 9:00      |
| 10:30 TO 11:30    | KALEIDOSCOPE                     |              |          |              |                     |                         | STAINED GLASS BLUEGRASS      | 9:00 TO 10:00     |
| 11:30 TO 12:30    | READING ALOUD                    |              |          |              |                     |                         | GALAXIS                      | 10:00 TO 11:00    |
| 12:30 TO 1:00     | NEWS DAY - FIRST EDITION         |              |          |              |                     |                         | SINGER'S WLD                 | 11:00 TO 12:00    |
| 1:00 TO 4:00      | LANGUAGE PROGRAMS                |              |          |              |                     | PA' LA LOMA             | MUSIC FROM GERMANY           | 12:00 TO 1:00     |
| 4:00 TO 5:00      | MEASURE BY MEASURE               |              |          |              |                     | SPIRITS KNOWN & UNKNOWN | IN PRAISE OF MUSIC           | 1:00 TO 2:30      |
| 5:00 TO 6:00      | BOOKMARK                         |              |          |              |                     |                         | THE NEWTHING ROOT MUSIC SHOW | 2:30 TO 4:00      |
| 6:00 TO 7:00      | NEWS DAY - SECOND EDITION        |              |          |              |                     | THE BEST OF ROCK        | FROM THE EDITOR' FILE        | 4:00 TO 5:00      |
| 7:00 TO 8:00      | 'OL HOWARD'S ROCK'N'ROLL JUKEBOX |              |          |              |                     | JAZZ REVISITED          |                              | 5:00 TO 6:00      |
| 8:00 TO 9:30      | INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING        |              |          |              |                     | 78-GROVE                | O'SEAS MISS'N                | 6:00 TO 7:00      |
| 9:30 TO 10:00     | THE FUTURE OF                    |              |          |              |                     | QUARTET                 | OTHERS SEE US                | 7:00 TO 8:00      |
| 10:00 TO 11:00    | ALL THINGS CONSIDERED....        |              |          |              |                     | SEALED BEAM             | 30 MINUTES                   | 8:00 TO 9:00      |
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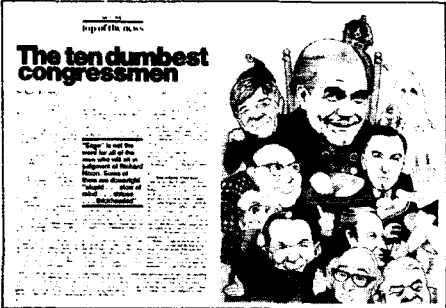
Think of us as the

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Superman we are not. But that doesn't mean NEW TIMES isn't busting evil in the chops, fighting for the little guy, stripping the pants off phonies and generally shaking hell out of the establishment. Like Mighty Mouse, we are small but powerful feisty. Out of all proportion to our size, we make waves. Strike fear in evil hearts. Give the tremble to fat cats. Shake the rafters. The Mouse that Roars, that's us.

**Some recent roars.** Every two weeks, NEW TIMES comes along with a stick or two of dynamite in its fist. There was our story on "The Ten Dumbest Congressmen," with our nomination for King of Dumb. How they screamed! There was "Pre-



scription Payola," about doctors who will risk your life for a color TV. There was "Southie is My Home Town," a look at the people of South Boston you didn't find in other media. (After a century of the shaft, maybe they had reasons for coming off as brawling racists.) In "The Little Camera that Couldn't," NEW TIMES dissected Polaroid's SX-70, as a symbol of a consumer economy gone wild. In "A Wallace Is a Wallace Is a Wallace," we looked underneath the new moderate George and found—guess what—the same old George. In "Happy Days Are Here Again," we saw the new depression as upbeat—a chance for the whole Whole Earth thing. "The Gourmet Freeze-Out" ripped the foil off a big restaurant ripoff. "The Consulting Con Game" laid bare a cushy professorial racket. "They Shoot Ten-Year Olds, Don't They?" was a heartwarming look at New York's shootin' cops with their 007 license to kill. "That Championship Season" stripped the cover-up from the sex scandal that decimated Notre Dame's football team.

**Is NEW TIMES mad all the time?** Golly, no. Don't get the idea we do nothing but dredge up embarrassing facts and tweak important noses. NEW TIMES is the magazine of what's happening and that's a spectrum that includes love and music and lifestyles and movies and all manner of rare new ideas. For instance, we reported on Erhard Seminars

Training (est), one of the most fascinating of the new life therapies. We got inside the world of bisexuality. We published our own medical research on pot—"Attention: Smoking Grass May Be Good for Your Health." And of course we continue to report on the eternal battle of The Little Guys vs. The Big Guys. Like the story on Sam Lovejoy, who toppled the big bad nuclear tower. And the young hillbillies of Mendocino County who were



damned if they'd let their houses be torn down for lack of city plumbing. Our bright, brash, talented writers and columnists—like Robert Sam Anson, Jesse Kornbluth, Marcia Seligson, Larry King, Amanda Spake, Jim Kunen, Mark Goodman, Frank Rich, Janet Maslin and Nina Totenberg—have

one thing in common. They're unafraid. They'll plunge into anything, take chances and stands, crawl way out on limbs. Sure, NEW TIMES may fall on its face sometimes. But never on its knees! **We're plugged into now.** Whether you like it or not, you're living in a time of shattering transitions. Nobody knows where the world is heading and if they claim to, they lie!

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# Inside junior high

ANNE CHASE

FOR an outsider with no formal background in education except eighteen years of nursery school, grade school, high school etc., a visit to a DC junior high school is illuminating, frustrating, encouraging and discouraging. I chose Charles Hart Jr. High in Anacostia virtually at random. I had never heard of it, and spent 15 minutes looking for it on a city map after I was invited to talk to a history class of eighth graders. When I got there the first time, I was, to put it mildly, nervous. Urban school systems enjoy a press rating about on a par with Nixon's. But, aside from a few students hanging around in the office, the school was quiet, graffiti-free and the students I spoke with were lively, well-informed and accurate judges of human behavior. There were no roving bands of terrorists, no evidence of rapes or ruggings. Hart is, in fact, just a school.

The principal agreed, reluctantly, to let me come. He explained that Hart had been unfairly treated by the press in the past and that it hindered the positive image the teachers and administration were trying to create. Once I was there, he gave me free run of the building and allowed me to follow one of the assistant principals around until I could find my way.

Hart is a basic 1950's style school building - red brick, square, it would not be mistaken for anything but an electric substation. It is attractively landscaped and has more potential recreation space than most of the other schools in the city. Potential as yet unrealized because there is no money to develop it. The surrounding neighborhood of detached single family homes and newer three and four story garden apartments runs downhill from Martin Luther King Avenue. It had 1856 students, 86 teachers and a traditional educational program. Seventh graders take English, United States geography, general science, math, physical education, art, music, home economics and shop. Eighth graders take English, math or algebra, general science, world history or US history, French or Spanish, physical education, typing, home economics and shop. Ninth graders take English, geometry, general math or business math, general science or biology, US civics or Afro-American history, French, Spanish, art, music, typing, home economics, shop and physical education.

A visitor notices some things immediately, but the reasons do not present themselves for several days. The administration sets the average class size at 35; in fact most classes have about 20 students. A few classes are so jammed the visitor takes the last seat.

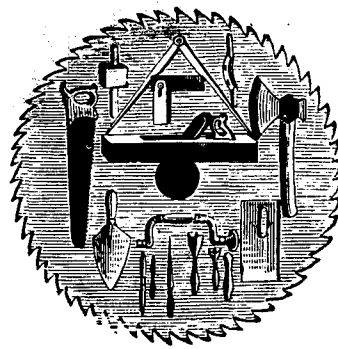
An interdisciplinary approach prevails at Hart, with all teachers emphasizing English. Science students must write reports on blacks who contributed to medical advancement; math students must turn in brief biographies of mathematicians, geography students have lists of vocabulary words to memorize. Afro-American history requires that the students read the newspaper and keep a scrapbook of stories pertaining to blacks.

The students themselves are fearfully concerned about the future. To a student, one history class subscribed to Henry Ford's saying that "history is bunk." "We can't look forward to nothing, because it's already happened," one declared. "Slavery doesn't affect what happens now; they should be teaching us about the new processes." When I asked them if they thought the civil rights movement of the sixties had an effect on their lives, they denied it. When I pressed the point by saying what if the freedom riders and Martin Luther King had just taken things easy and hadn't fought separate facilities, they responded with irrefutable logic. "Yeah, well, they did, so what's the fuss?" Nor was black history any better than white history. Indeed, it was hard to see much of these supremely self-confident flashy children in a film portrayal they had just viewed of an over-earnest Booker T. Washington (whose philosophy they probably would have agreed with) or with the traditional picture of the timid freedman approaching the school house with his cap in hand.

Classes in which the subject matter rather than the teacher's personality holds the students' attention are those that require immediate mastery of skills and produce a visible end product, like typing ("you learn how to type, you ready for a job"), shop and home economics. Kids work away at their sewing machines and tell other students cruising around the room to get lost. Even though a less structured environment than a regular classroom provides more opportunity to act up, the opportunity is not taken.

The classes with the best attendance are those whose teachers have been able to channel the students' sense of immediacy into such rigorous academic subjects as biology and algebra. Teachers who have been able to convey to their students that their education is for them and not the teacher play to packed houses. Hart students are a critical audience, and they vote with their feet, not walking into classes that don't interest them.

Two teachers explained their rapport with the students. "For the first nine weeks of school they hate me, because I insist they come to class and I make them work. I send notes home to their parents; I make them come in early; and I keep a file with the telephone number of every child in my class. That way I catch problems early. The kids have my phone num-



## WOOD CHIPS

ANTON WOOD

### STREET CLOSINGS

City Council members James Coates and Jerry Moore have introduced legislation which would give the mayor virtually unlimited power to close streets and alleys for the summer months for the bicentennial celebration. This resolution could circumvent due process rights and public hearing requirements presently accorded small businesses, tenants and abutting property owners under the DC Code. This measure would also give the mayor the power to justify RLA's illegal street closings for the Streets for People project. The city council has never held public hearings on the multi-million project, despite the fact that it holds hearings on every other street and alley closing.

### PLANNING COMMISSION PAYHIKE

The home rule charter drastically reduced the National Capital Planning Commission's authority to being simply the federal government's central planning agency in the area. The reduction of power, however, did not stop NCPC from requesting \$118,000 more in its 1976 budget than it received in the 1975 budget.

### FORT LINCOLN

RLA awarded the Ft. Lincoln bonanza to a financial syndicate headed by Ted Hagans. Besides Hagan receiving a multi-million dollar subsidy for the project out of tax dollars, the deal won't hurt his holdings in PEPCO (of which he is a board member). Ft. Lincoln is being planned as an all-electric community.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

On May 28, the Washington Residential Development Coalition, an organization composed of major DC real estate firms, voted to hire RLA board member Willie Leftwich to lobby against the real estate speculation tax now pending before the city council. If Leftwich accepts the offer, he should resign as an RLA board member since the lobbying would be a violation of the public trust and, perhaps, of the DC conflict of interest laws. It is interesting to note that RLA's reckless use of eminent domain and urban renewal to remove usable housing from the market has helped create a favorable environment for housing speculation.

### PARKING LOT

The National Park Service's plan for the Mall will convert the nearby neighborhoods of Capitol Hill and Stanton Park into unofficial bicentennial parking lots. The plans to shut off the Mall to parking will encourage employees from HEW, NASA and the Department of Transportation to compete with those from Capitol Hill, the post office, the Government Printing Office and Union Station for parking spaces in Stanton Park and on the Hill, which are already inundated with parking problems.

ber and I have theirs. If they need to know how to do a problem, they can call me any time."

The Spanish teacher agrees. "My students are really very good. They pick up things very quickly and it proves you can give them as much work as you want to. My insistence on spelling has improved their own English. In the beginning they hate you because you give them work, but now they respect me, come to me. You have to give them something challenging, relevant - stress things they can use."

The students and their teachers are in close accord. "You learn more in her class. . . she takes time to teach you. . . you do something different every day. . . you know she'll get on you if you don't do your work. She's not hard; she just wants you to do your work."

(Please turn to page 12)

# TOPICS

NR ONE

JULY AUGUST 1975

## ENVIRONMENT

A NEW STUDY BY THE Smithsonian Institution warns that ten percent of all wild plant species in the US are currently threatened with extinction. As a result of the findings, the Department of Interior has begun its first official review of plant species for possible inclusion on the endangered species list.

PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE REPORTS that at least 70 different public and private organizations are quietly involved in efforts to modify the weather in the US. Pacific Gas and Electric, on the west coast, has been in the rain-making business since 1952. PNS says that one reason rain-making activities are not highly publicized is that, when excess rain and flooding suddenly occurs, people who suffer losses are apt to file damage suits.

A NEW BOOK, ENERGY FOR SURVIVAL: The Alternative to Extinction, has been getting good reviews from environmentalists. Anchor Press is the publisher.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that the giant glacier that covers west Antarctica could suddenly slide into the ocean and raise the level of the seas around the world by at least 20 feet. The Times says that this would "submerge many coastal cities as well as much of the world's food-producing areas." Tidal waves could also be expected.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS almost completed the construction of the world's two most powerful telescopes. The Soviets say their new telescopes will be used together in efforts to detect the presence of other planets, perhaps with life upon them, which are orbiting the closest stars.

## THE SECRET GOVERNMENT

IF NO ONE goes to jail or is otherwise punished for the massive crimes committed by the CIA, FBI and police that have come to light, what possible reason is there for these agencies to stop doing what they have been doing? Chances are they are still very much at it, confident that the worst that will happen is that five years from now a blue ribbon commission will say, "That was a no-no."

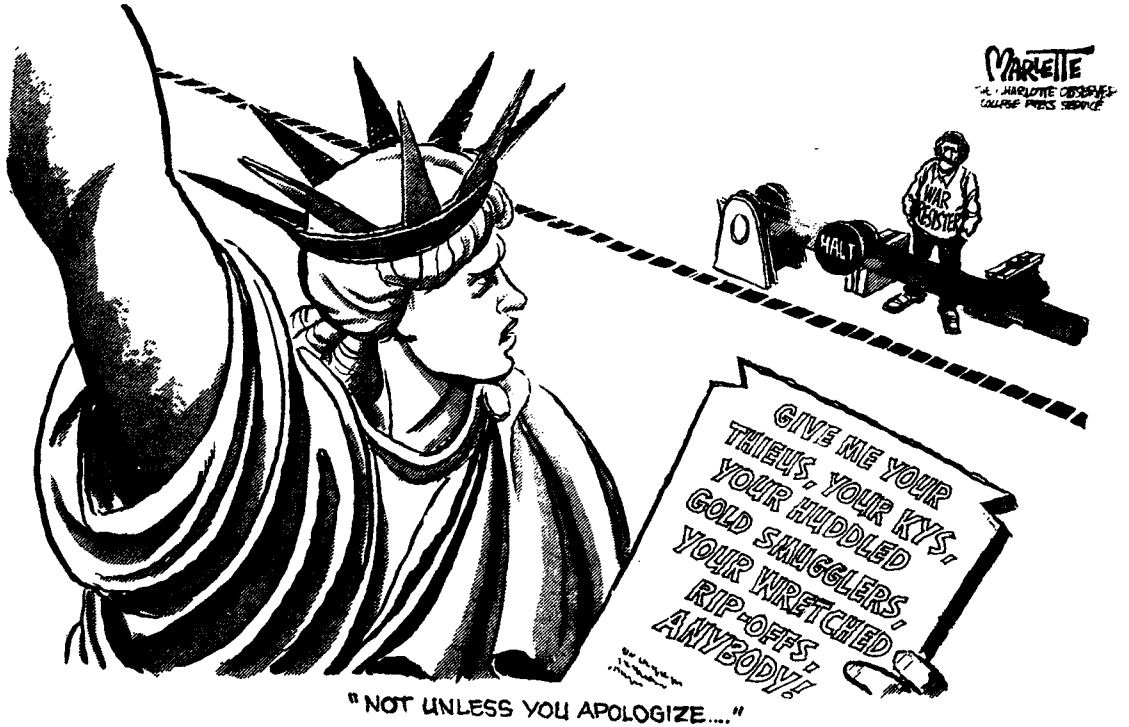
TED CHARACH, the RFK assassination investigator, claims that he is currently negotiating for the purchase of the so-called "second gun" that some believed was used in the killing. The gun belonged to a guard. Shortly after the assassination, it was reportedly stolen; thus no ballistics tests were performed on it. Charach claims to have tracked the gun down.

A TEAM OF FBI agents and architects went to Disney World to get advice on designing the tour route through the new FBI building.

A CALIFORNIA PSYCHIATRIST, Lloyd Cotter, admits in the American Journal of Psychiatry that he employed painful electro-convulsive shocks on Vietnamese mental patients in the mid-1960's to compel them to work. The programmed Vietnamese were turned over as laborers for Green Berets in Vietnam.

FORMER NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN Allard Lowenstein says that the Los Angeles police have a ceiling panel from the pantry where Robert Kennedy was shot that could help tell how many shots were fired during the killing. The Los Angeles DA says the case is closed.

SOME OF THE LATEST in electronic gadgets to keep tabs on people are described in a June article in Harpers by ex-CIA agent George O'Toole. Among the items: a call diverter which can be attached to a phone line. It doesn't do anything until the phone



is used to call a particular number. When that number is dialed, the phone automatically reroutes the call to another phone, where, O'Toole says, "presumably there is a cop who does impressions."

Another device is the "vehicle detention system." O'Toole says this gadget can be planted on a car in less than 12 seconds and that it can later be used to shut off the car's engine with a radio command: "It can . . . ruin an otherwise perfect getaway."

ROLLING STONE reports that the CIA and NSA have their own top-secret Ticketron outlets.

CALIFORNIA PSYCHOLOGIST DAVID GOODMAN of the Newport Neuroscience Center says a study of George Orwell's 1984, published 27 years ago, finds that 100 of 137 specific predictions have come true. Among them: weather modification as a weapon of war; B-52s which refuel in the air; radio-controlled rocket bombs; and behavior control through drugs and aversion therapy.

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION filed papers in federal court last month contending that the federal police have the right to break into a citizen's home without a warrant to search of evidence in intelligence cases.

THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT has come out with a report on 110 government research projects carried out over the past decade aimed at dealing with domestic disturbances. It's called "Riots and Riot Control, a Bibliography with Abstracts, 1964-74."

ATTORNEY MARK LANE says he has uncovered new information which links Jack Ruby to members of organized crime. Lane has come up with a 1939 Chicago Tribune that includes a photo of Jack Ruby captioned "seized for questioning" in a gangland slaying. The FBI denied to the Warren Commission that Ruby was linked to the case.

MARK LANE, MORTON HALPERIN, Fletcher Prouty and Linus Pauling are among the organizers of a new Citizens Commission of Inquiry into the JFK killing. It will press for a congressional investigation. The commission can be reached at 202-546-7500.

THE FBI REPORTS that it has trained SWAT units for 456 different police departments across the United States.

FORMER NEW YORK TIMES report Tad Szulc says in the June issue of Penthouse that the US spends \$25 billion a year for intelligence gathering. The largest amount (\$11 billion) goes to the National Security Agency. In total it amounts to about \$8 out of every \$100 spent by the feds, according to Szulc.

### COOPS AND FOOD STAMPS

It's possible for food coops to get authorized to accept food stamps. To apply for authorization, write a letter to the US Dept. of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service in your state capitol. Explain your coop's wish to be authorized and give a report on the number of members, goods ordered, business volume, ordering frequency, low income family involvement. Ask for an application form.

You will receive an information packet, including applications and regulations.

The application may be mailed in, then you wait until an inspector comes to visit, or an the application may be taken into the USDA office in person. A brief interview would follow to make sure you understand the regs and then authorization would immediately follow.

The decision, if denied, may be appealed and the reasons must be clearly defined.

The decision is made at the regional level. A wait should be anticipated. Many coops have successfully applied.

One sticky matter is that the food stamps must be immediately exchanged for food. If coops have enough money or credit they can buy the food on pre-order and accept the stamps at the coop site. — CPF

## HEALTH

NUTRITIONIST Beverly Moore of the Center for the Study of Responsive Law has done a computer study of 473 food products most commonly advertised on TV. He's found that 43% of the calories in the "TV diet" is in the form of fat and another 32% is in the form of sugar. Moore found that the diet contained an excessive amount of salt and a shockingly low level of fiber.

THE FOOD AND DRUG Administration has given up its fight to impose restrictions on the sale of vitamins and food supplements. Under new regulations supervitamins (except for large doses of A and D) would be classified as food and not drugs.

CONSUMERS UNION has done a study of fast food restaurants and finds that while their menus are heavy on calories and deficient in a few nutrients, they do contain ample protein. One of the best of all is the Pizza Hut's 10-inch "Supreme" pizza.



## NEW NAME, NEW FORMAT

With this issue, we have changed the name of "News Notes," changed its format and included it as a regular feature of the Gazette. We will, with this change, be able to share information on important national topics with more people and have more space in which to do it.

Persons who have subscribed to both News Notes and the Gazette will have their Gazette subscription extended one year.

Information in Topics comes from our sources, as well as from Zodiac News Service, Liberation News Service, the Alternative Press Syndicate, College Press Service and Community Press Features.

You may send subscriptions to Topics for \$3 a year. Send orders to the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

A UCLA team studied 30 longterm pot smokers who spent 94 days locked in a laboratory using an average of 5.5 marijuana cigarettes a day. They found virtually no evidence that pot smoking is harmful -- other than a drop in a male hormone. Says one of the researchers, jailing pot smokers is more harmful than smoking pot.

ROBIN ROOM and Nancy Day, two University of California researchers, studied the drinking patterns of 6000 persons over a period of several years. They found that moderate drinkers, those who consumed several cocktails or a half bottle of wine a day, had a death rate one third that of heavy drinkers and one half that of total abstainers.

NATURE MAGAZINE is out with a report that coffee, if taken with foods containing preservatives (such as cheese and bacon) is likely to cause cancer. The report suggests that you not drink coffee with bacon and cheese.

THE PILLSBURY COMPANY, makers of pie and cake mixes, has bought out Weight Watchers, Inc.

## MEDIA

THE REAL PAPER, an alternative paper in Boston, has been sold to PRQ Inc. for a reported \$321,000. The second largest stockholder in PRQ is one David Rockefeller Jr.

HUNTER THOMPSON has been removed from the masthead of Rolling Stone. Says Thompson, "It's a tossup whether I was fired or whether I quit." The Los Angeles Times quotes one Rolling Stone source as saying: "It's a marvelous situation: the world's worst employee working for the world's worst boss."

## JUST POLITICS

MEMBERS of the House have taken, or will take, six ten day breaks this year in addition to a month off in August. During the Memorial Day recess, at least 49 members of Congress went to Europe at taxpayers' expense.

A FRUSTRATED liberal senator Philip Hart, who would have no trouble getting re-elected, has decided not to run for another term. He cites his age but he is reported to have described the Senate as a place that passes bills twenty years after they should be passed.

WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND to reading it yet, but from the reviews, "Resignation in Protest" by Edward Weisband and Thomas M. Franck, sounds like one of the most interesting political books of the season. It traces the history of public resignations and discusses the reluctance of American officials to resign in protest and the political consequences of that reluctance.

FROM I.F. STONE: "The idea that you get understanding and depth by word of mouth within the government is crap. You

have to use your head -- your philosophical conceptions, your historical perspective. News and facts by themselves have no meaning."

TWO CALIFORNIA legislators have introduced bills that would require each list of names for each office on the ballot to include the phrase "none of the above" so that voters can vote "no" on all candidates. One bill states that whenever "none of the above" captures more than 50% of the vote, the office shall be declared vacant and a new election held.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in US history, a federal judge has ruled the draft unconstitutional because it is sexually discriminatory. Judge W.D. Murray in Butte, Montana, threw out a case against an alleged draft dodger saying that Selective Service laws "establish a sex-based classification which burdens and penalizes members of one sex and not another."

## 1976

There's at least one prexy campaign worth a damn -- that of Fred Harris. Harris understands what the fight should be about -- the redistribution of power and wealth and that's what he is basing his campaign on. He's gotten lousy press coverage from the national media but has received a pretty good reception from the locals as he jogs around the country, keeping his expenses down by running his headquarters out of his house, using a nearly all-volunteer staff and staying at friendly houses along the way. This summer he'll be touring the country in a camper.

He's a fine speaker, full of down home humor, and he's done his homework. Some time ago, he brought in a pack of radical and off-beat economists for a two day conference on redistribution which was one of the most exciting meetings we've ever been to. We'll be saying more about the Harris campaign but for the moment we just wanted to tell you that you owe it to yourself to catch him when he's in town and to send a few bucks to Harris for President, 1104 Waverly Way, McLean, Va. 22101 (703-0356-1670) to help him spread the word. The word, incidentally, is getting out. Harris reports contributors and supporters are signing up at the rate of 1000 a week.

## THINGS TO DO

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES ANNUAL CONGRESS OF CITIES. November 30-December 4. Info from Judith Mattson, National League of Cities, 1620 Eye NW, DC 20006.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIALIST FEMINISM July 4-6. Dayton, Ohio. Info from Socialist Feminist Group, 1309 N. Main St., Dayton, Ohio 45405. (513-223-3296).

NEW AMERICAN MOVEMENT CONVENTION, August 6-10, Oberlin, Ohio. Write NAM, 1643 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60647.

EMERGENCY AID TO VIETNAM. Five organizations have established channels to deliver emergency aid to Vietnam:

American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th St., Phila Pa. 19102

Clergy and Laity Concerned, 235 E. 49th St., NYC NY 10017

International Children's Fund, Box 4432, Berkeley, Calif. 94704

Medical Aid for Vietnam, 65A Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Mennotie Central Committee, 21 S. 21 St., Akron, Pa. 17501.

FEMINIST SUMMER SESSION. Sagaris, an independent institute for the study of feminist thought is holding a series of sessions for women with prior involvement in women's issues. The next session starts July 21 in Vermont. Info: Sagaris, PO Box 88, Plainfield, Vt. 05667 or call 212-877-0335 in New York City.

1975 PEOPLES PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION meets in St. Louis August 25-31. Info: People's Party, 1404 M NW, Thomas Circle, DC 20005.

## PUBLICATIONS

ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY RESOURCE LIST. Send 10¢ stamp to Clay Colt, Box 1131, Winters, CA 95694.

ACLU PRACTICE MANUAL ON MILITARY DISCHARGE Upgrading. \$10 from ACLU, 22 East 40th St., NYC NY 10016. A comprehensive manual for those involved in seeking changes in discharges.

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Songs From the Hearts of Women. Includes songs by Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and Buffy Sainte-Marie, among others. \$5 plus postage from Women Strike for Peace, 799 Broadway, NYC NY 10003. (record)

1975 NASHA SURVIVAL CATALOG. Useful and hard to find information on self-sufficiency. From North American Survival and Homesteading Assn., Box 4077, Station "A," Toronto, Ontario M5W 1m4 Canada.

UNEMPLOYMENT, THE FACTS THE EXPERTS CAN'T EXPLAIN. Discusses how unemployment statistics are gathered and various theories that explain away high unemployment. 50¢ from the Union for Radical Political Economists, Box 331, Cathedral Station, NYC NY 10025.

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE ACTION PROJECT include Top 100 Defense Contractors (25¢); B1 Military Industrial Materials (75¢); The Case for a Nuclear Moratorium (\$1); Labor History Bibliography (25¢). Order from CAP, 1500 Farragut St. NW, DC 20011

JUST ECONOMICS. Monthly publication from Movement for Economic Justice, 1609 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

THE CORPORATE EXAMINER, Monthly publication from the Corporate Information Center, 475 Riverside Drive, NYC NY 10027.

THE ELEMENTS, monthly dealing with economic problems from the Institute for Policy Studies' Transnational Institute, 1901 Que NW, DC 20009.

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES REPORT, published bimonthly by the Council on Economic Priorities, 456 Greenwich St., NYC NY 10013.

DOLLARS AND SENSE. Current economic events from a socialist perspective. 324 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

OSAWATOMIE, the magazine of the Weather Underground, reprinted by the Water Buffalo Print Collective at 20¢ each plus postage. P.O. Box 22184, Seattle, Washington 98122.

NON-BUYING GUIDE FOR PEACE. An updated guide to companies involved in military as well as consumer products. \$1 from Third World Reader Service, 1500 Farragut St. NW DC 20011.

THE LESBIAN IN LITERATURE. Annotated bibliography of English language books concerning lesbianism or having lesbian characters. \$10 from The Ladder, PO Box 5025, Washington Station, Reno, Nev. 89503.

BOEING ARMS THE CORPORATE EMPIRE. A pamphlet written by a movement research group to help stop the B-1 bomber. Includes information on Senator Jackson's ties with Boeing. \$1 from Pacific Northwest Research Center, U of Oregon, Eugene, Oreg. 97403.

WOMEN AND LAW MICROFILM. Over 500 subject files pertinent to women and law. Also a microfilm on Women and Health/Mental Health. Write Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, CA 94708.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX. This is the readers guide to the alternative press. It's a massive job indexing the publications and the group is up to the end of 1971. For info write the Alternative Press Centre at P.O. Box 256, College Park, Md. 20740.

THE TRAVELER'S DIRECTORY. An annual that lists several hundred people happy to put up travelers who are passing through. Only those who list themselves in the directory can receive one. For info and listing forms write to The Traveler's Directory, Tom Lynn, Editor, 6224 Baynton St., Phila Pa. 19144.

THE PEDESTAL. A new lesbian feminist paper due to come out shortly. Subscriptions are \$3.50 in the US. News, suggestions and articles are desired. Write 6854 Inverness St., Vancouver, British Columbia.

VIDEO TAPES. Write for list of video tapes on drugs, prison, computers and other subjects available from Urban Planning Aid, 639 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.





# CITY LINES

A NEW YORK TIMES survey finds that mass transit is declining in some cities (New York, Chicago, Boston and Cleveland) but that in other cities (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh), ridership is up. The Times reports that "the gains are being scored by cities introducing new or refurbished surface transit systems." Subway systems appear to be losing ridership (New York carried over two billion subway passengers just after World War II; the figure is now down to just over a billion last year.)

ST LOUIS, home of one of the most notorious public housing projects — Pruitt Igoe, is now experimenting with tenant management of four of its biggest public projects. First reports are highly favorable.

BANKERS are getting wary of the Planned Unit Development approach to development according to the board chairman of the North Carolina National Bank, interviewed in Business Week. "The amounts of development capital required, the amount of risk exposure generated, is just too much for any one lender or consortium of lenders to accept," said Robert Cashion. The PUD idea was designed to short-circuit conventional zoning restrictions. Although packaged as a new gimmick to save cities, many urban groups recognized it as another variety of the urban land grab. So now, on top of the financial problems, PUDs are facing strong court and political battles on environmental grounds.

UNEMPLOYMENT among black male teenagers has climbed from 16.5% in 1954 to 30.2% in 1973. White male teenage unemployment has stayed steady at 12% says the Labor Department. The Department estimates that black teenagers will increase in number another 18% by 1985.

THE APRIL issue of People & Taxes, the excellent publication of the Nader people's tax group (133 C SE, DC 20003), contains a useful article on how you can assess the fairness of tax assessment in your community. Send 40¢ to them for a copy.

AN ILLINOIS commission has proposed the creation of a unitary real estate marketing system under the control of the Commissioner of Real Estate. All brokers would have to list their properties for sale and lease with the system, which would provide information to the public on all the housing available in the state at convenient locations. Failure to list would lead to loss of the broker's license. For more details on this important approach to dealing with housing discrimination get hold of the winter issue of the Civil Rights Digest, US Commission on Civil Rights, DC 20425, and read "An Answer to Housing Discrimination, The Need for a Unitary Marketing System" by Lawrence Rosser and Beth White.

TOYOTA, Japan's largest car maker, has announced the development of an electric-power auto. The five passenger vehicle would be able to travel at least 58 miles per hour and can go 125 miles without recharging. It is not known when the car will go into production.

A GROUP in Pittsburgh has been working on the development of a neighborhood information system. They call it the Neighborhood Atlas. They are currently collecting data from a variety of sources: sample surveys, the R.A. Polk annual reports that can be obtained for 15¢ per household, building permit files, crime data, transportation data and sales of property. The idea is to compile this information in order to find out what is happening to the city's neighborhoods. It is also useful as armament against cityplanners with their own selectively compiled statistics, so much so that the mayor of Pittsburgh vetoed a unanimous grant of funds by the city council to the Neighborhood Atlas. So far the system is being tested in four neighborhoods. Among its successes has been the development of hard information that a \$5 million code enforcement program wasn't working and that a shopping center failed not because of crime and vandalism, as was popularly perceived, but because the neighborhood population had dramatically declined. . . .

Another approach to obtaining neighborhood data is to pass a law requiring the city to compile its information on a census tract and neighborhood basis.

PARKING LOT owners and developers are responding to the trend towards smaller cars — by studying new designs for garages that will pack more cars into less space. You can read about it in the May Urban Land, put out by the industry-oriented Urban Land Institute.

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD, who would give a dollar for dollar tax credit for individuals who contribute to neighborhood government, offers some interesting statistics. He says that if each church and synagogue took over the responsibility for 18 families who are eligible for welfare there would not be any need for federal or state welfare programs to families. If each church and synagogue cared for less than one child each, federal and state child care funds would be unnecessary.

LONG BEACH California is among the cities experimenting with electric buses and getting good results. . . The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority has purchased five electric buses to provide service around the University of Pennsylvania. . . People seem to like their quiet, smooth ride. Says the general manager of the Long Beach bus line, "this is the first time in my experience where I have been practically snowed under with fan mail from the passengers of a new route."



AN ELECTRIC BUS

MASSACHUSETTS is making headway with its housing finance agency, the first such state-run operation and reportedly the best of the lot. The MHFA has defied conventional wisdom and insisted on a mixture of income classes within developments that it funds. In its first four years of operations it has financed some 26,000 dwelling units and is committed to finance about 11,000 more. Low income units are subsidized through rent supplements and public housing leasing money. Moderate income residents got help from the 236 program of HUD. The agency accepts only about one out of three sites proposed by developers and also insists on good design. No assembly-line developments. No distinctions made in the quality of the dwelling unit for the different income groups. Limited amenities, like the best views, are distributed proportionally among the different income classes.

Recently, a study was made of MHFA residents and a comparison group of residents in housing of the three different classes: low-income, moderate-income and market-rent. 59% of the market rent tenants reported themselves very satisfied with the MHFA project they were in while only 35% of the comparison group was very satisfied. 44% of the moderate income tenants were very satisfied with the MHFA project; only 27% of the control group. 51% of the low income group was very satisfied with MHFA; only 30% of the control group. The same results occurred when tenants were asked to rate their apartment, the development, management and their neighbors. Only in the case of moderate income residents rating their neighbors was their more satisfaction in the control group than in the MHFA project.

NEW YORK City will spend nearly two-thirds of its federal housing money this year on rehabilitation of existing units rather than on the old rip and rebuild principle of urban renewal. The AP reported that "remodeling has long been cheaper in many cases than tearing down old housing and building new." To many environmentalists and critics of urban renewal, this has indeed been obvious but city officials and planners have consistently denied it. We suspect an even stronger case could be made for the preservation of urban housing if some hard data could be obtained that shows the true environmental costs involved in destroying a building and putting a new one up in its place, both in terms of the energy and materials needed for the conversion and the expenditure of limited natural resources. Unfortunately, this data is hard to come by.

AS WASHINGTON POST columnist William Raspberry writes, "With the recent capitulation of Professor James R. Coleman (he of the celebrated Coleman Report), hardly anyone is left to defend big-scale busing for the purposes of school integration." Coleman admitted what had become painfully obvious to many (although not, unfortunately, including the federal judiciary): that busing was creating segregation and racial polarization in the big cities. Hopefully, Coleman's about-face will help black and white liberals out of the box they go into on this issue.

A FRIEND of ours reports meeting the general counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He lives deep in the Washington suburbs. Explained the HUD-man, "The city is no place to bring up kids."

## FOREIGN MATTER

"IF you insist on putting the torch to us, disorder will be long. But we shall act according to the laws of heaven, and our cause will triumph in the end." — Vietnamese proclamation to first group of French sailors venturing up the Saigon River in the 19th century, quoted in "The Experts."

NEW YORK Magazine reports that Richard Nixon has slipped quietly back into politics and placed dozens of calls to his congressional friends urging that they support President Ford's requested last minute military aid request to Saigon.

WORLD AIRWAYS stock jumped more than 50% in the weeks of the Vietnam orphan airlift. Not only did World Airways president Edward Daly get a lot of publicity, his personal stock in the company went up \$18 million.

MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL Harrington points out that the United States following the Paris peace agreement supplied Saigon with three times as much armaments as the Soviets and Chinese supplied the north during the same period.

## ETC

TO PROTEST South Dakota's treatment of Indians, AIM is organizing a boycott of the state during the summer tourist season and urging supporters to write to state officials to register their complaints. For information write AIM (Custer Campaign) Box 3677, St. Paul, Minn. 55101

ACCORDING TO THE General Accounting Office, the Pentagon spends \$13.9 million a year to maintain 300 military golf courses in 19 foreign countries.

THE BOYCOTT against Gallo wine products is working. First quarter figures for Gallo show a 6% decline in wine volume compared with a 13% increase for the rest of the wine industry.

IF YOU want to know what happened to Abbie Hoffman, get hold of the last May issue and first June issue of New Times, which contains a fascinating interview with Hoffman now underground.





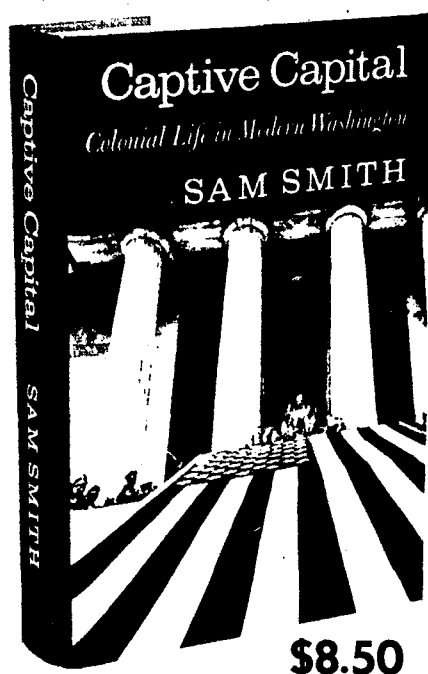
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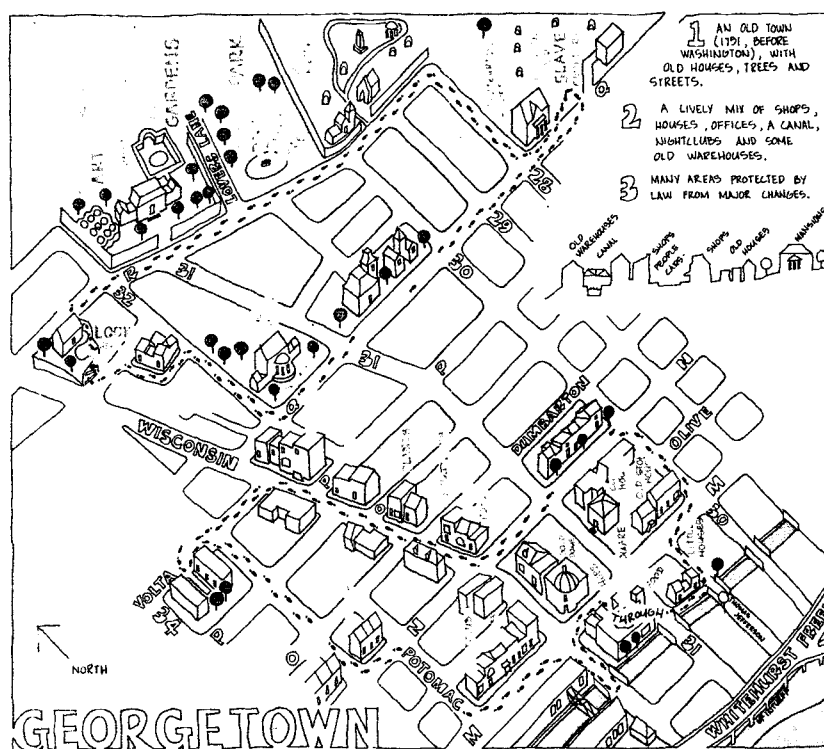
Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either." — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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JOHN WEIBENSON



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## JUNIOR HIGH CONTINUED

"Some of the things we just learning we should have learned long ago. Our class has had trouble with fractions and percents. We should have learned that in 7th grade math. The teacher would just give you some paper and tell you, 'Do it.' He wouldn't write anything on the board or show you how to do it."

"Some teachers if they find out you cutting their classes, they fail you for an advisory. Not her. She'll straighten you out herself, not send your name down to the office. Only way you can fail her is not come to classes — or just sit there and look dumb. She gives people chances. You go in and see her when you're having problems."

Although children can be suspended for cutting classes, teachers, in general, will not spend their time tracking down students who don't come. This is not to say the teachers don't care. They do. But many times a teacher is faced with the option of compelling one child to come to class (assuming he can find him) and then coping with that child's disruption of the other thirty students, or letting well enough alone. Amazingly, one teacher's hellion is another's model, or at least average, student.

One of Hart's assistant principals, a man who is the victim of a certain amount of good-natured bitching from his students, talked about the disparity in student behavior:

"The relationship that exists between students and teachers is what makes education. If you don't have that relationship, money doesn't make any difference." Although many truants and discipline problems establish good relationships with one or two of their teachers, this administrator, unfortunately, does not see that sense of trust and respect for one adult growing into an overall acceptance of school.

"Whenever I read a biography or autobiography of some genius who didn't do well in school, like Winston Churchill, but who blossomed later on in his life, I think of all those geniuses who never succeed because they don't receive the necessary outside stimulus. It makes me determined that some way we have got to bring in the kids who aren't being reached by traditional programs."

"We have kids who can't read who are dynamite artists. We need to be able to pull them in under art and work on improving their other skills using a subject they excell in, so they aren't afraid to try. We need to be able to have other classes in English — that's not English. Let the kids write poetry. Find whatever it is that turns them on and work from that angle."

He discussed plans for integrated 7th grade English curriculum that he hoped to begin in the fall, exchanging teachers in different subject areas in order that teachers who particularly enjoyed some aspect of the English program might switch from class to class and share it with all the seventh graders.

Teachers I talked with said they rarely discuss a student's problems with another teacher. One teacher suggested it was due to a reluctance to get into a nother teacher's subject area. As a result, every teacher has to find out for herself that a kid can't read. Also, some truly talented students aren't getting the recognition they deserve. One girl writes poetry of startling originality and force for her own enjoyment and only the music teacher knows anything about it. Other staff members remembered her as someone with a bad attitude.

One junior high school administrator in the DC system said that the problem of discipline and of students falling through the cracks, which reaches mammoth proportions in junior high school, might be alleviated if the schools were to allot a half day per month to teacher conferences, so the teachers could find out who couldn't read, who wan't coming to class and who was able to control that unbelievable in 13B.

Reading, it is frankly admitted, is a problem. Seventh grade teachers estimate that most of their classes read at about a fifth grade level. The staff says that anywhere from 30% to 70% of the students can't read at grade level. Reading might not be so much of a problem if the students had their own text books. In some classes there are only enough books for a classroom set, so the teachers cannot assign homework. Other classes didn't even have enough books for every student to use in class. This of course, has nothing to with the individual school. It is a budgetary and administrative problem, pure and simple, and it happens all over the city. One morning in the teacher's lounge, a staff member drily explained that the system had no money for books because the school board spent all the money paying off superintendents who had been fired before their contracts had expired. One teacher coped with the problem by having students buy paperback books for home reading. Three children in her class told me they preferred reading to watching TV.

A teacher who had been at Hart for ten years and enjoys a close relationship with many students suggested, "I think we worry too much about remedial reading and what's happening to the students now. I'd say that if you look at these kids after they get out of school in ten years, you'd find most of them working in jobs where they're secure and happy and they don't have to worry about their futures. One boy couldn't hardly read — we considered him only an average student; now he's building bridges in Chicago. One boy cut classes all the time, but he always came to gym — now he's assistant basketball coach at one of the major schools in the midwest. He's only 21-22 years old. They go into really diverse occupations. Some

kids I know are in law school now, some become policemen, firemen. They do all right."

Many Hart students are musically talented. The choral group sends shivers down one's spine. One of the music teachers has set up an educational theatre in which students perform their own plays and poems, write, direct and film movies and learn about the technical aspects of the performing arts, like lighting, sound equipment and special effects. His students have been invited to perform at an Afro-American writers' workshop at Howard. One boy came into class with a copy of the student newspaper which he was obviously have trouble reading and asked the teacher about an item on copying music that the teacher had written. When the tune was played on the piano, the student sang along, following the tune through a number of variations.

A ninth grade English class was rehearsing a "Senior Extravaganza." Although the plot was pretty typical, "What Will Hart Students Be Doing in 1995?," individual kids displayed a surprising amount of inventiveness and stage presence. One boy announced, in his role as standup comic, that he would do an imitation of the principal. The principal is a rather austere, reserved individual, in no way a figure of fun and not the easiest man to imitate. The student, however, parodied the administrator's slow, eighty speech with an excellent sense of timing. Many of the girls in the class sang. One young woman performed first a modern dance of her own invention, featuring a sort of stylized bump and grind, punctuated by modern dance excercises, to the tune of "Love Me in the Morning," then sang "Voulez Vous Couchez Avec Moi?" and really put some guts into it. While many of her class mates were diffident and shy, she had stage presence and considerable athletic ability.

Some teachers rely heavily on classwork, collages, film and other show and tell activites; others merely lecture. The best teachers try to draw the most uncommunicative students into a discussion and aren't so interested in finishing the lesson plan that they can't flow with the class if the students are really on to something. A few classes are an absolute zoo. The kids run wild and the teacher is powerless to deal with them. Naturally, what the visitor sees in May is the result of eight months of laying down the law or the lack of it. Only a very few candidates for sainthood in the teaching profession at Hart seem to be able to reason effectively with a 14 year old. Their rooms should be dipped in bronze when they leave. The other teachers keep the room quiet so at least the students can hear them by operating on an either or basis: "Either you bring your book, your pencil and your body to my room and be quiet or I'll fail you." It seems to work. The classes are well attended and in an informal favorite teacher poll came up with two winners who don't stand any guff from their students. A student told me that people who didn't behave should be stood in a corner and told to count the bricks. The junior members of the house of Hart are not big fans of permissiveness and they know when they aren't learning anything. Several students said that the school was too easy. One girl, in the midst of a chaotic math class, commented, "When I was in 6th grade, I ain't never see the sun. I had homework every day. Here, we don't get nothing."

After I started going to Hart, I found that it had a reputation as one of the worst schools in DC. When I told students I was a reporter, the almost universal comment was, "You gonna write a bad report on us?" The principal explained he was working with his staff to try to fight negativism and make the students proud of the school and of themselves. Indeed, the parents are aware of the situation and determined to correct it. The PTA meetings average over a thousand people. Staff members spoke of the parents' dedication and effort in working on Title I programs. The students are proud of the school; in an award ceremony for excellence in the arts which took place at the school, the kids went crazy when a Hart boy won an award. On the other hand, the track team had been enjoying a good deal of success, but the administrators didn't know what their record was for the year. There's a communications problem between everybody. There seems to be a need for information to circulate better, for people to tell their co-workers what the score is, for teachers to tell the students what's going on and vice versa.

Hart has good teachers, impressive administrators and bright kids. It also has, like any organization, some real nebishes. One teacher told me, "There are people in this building who have told me, 'These children just can't do it. They aren't capable.'" That is rubbish. There are people in the teaching profession who can't teach. Some of them are at Hart and some are at Harvard. The results are just much more painfully obvious in a game where the players start with less.

I close with a quote from one of Hart's assistant principals, Mr. Optimist:

"People must reach a point where they begin to see themselves as winners. If they believe that they are winners, they can do anything; fail time and again and they'll still try. It's a religious fervor. That's got to be the whole spirit of the a school, of a faculty. Goddamn it, we are great. There has got to be success. You have to show them successful models, and then when they have the success feeling, they will succeed. They've heard they are bad, all their lives. Now they need to hear something positive."

Some Hart students are succeeding right now in a traditional academic situation. There are a lot of other people who are slowly getting it together. Their cheering section needs help.

# Moving toward deposits

ANNE FOGARTY

AS witnesses exchanged charges of "environmental nitpicking" and "self-serving industry," Jerry Moore, chairman of the city council's transportation and environmental affairs committee heard testimony last month on the merits and pitfalls of two proposed beverage container acts that would require deposits on containers in order to reduce litter in public places and the burden on the city's dumps. The legislation would also reduce the demand for aluminum and steel, according to its advocates. Further, the bills would save money for the consumer since, according to DC PIRG, an ounce of beverage sold in a returnable bottle is only 1.3¢ as against 1.6¢ in non-returnable bottles and 2.2¢ in non-returnable cans.

Of the two bills before the council, the one introduced by Julius Hobson is the stronger. It requires a 10¢ deposit per container, outlaws plastic containers, imposes a maximum \$1000 fine for noncompliance by a dealer and would go into effect no later than June 1 of next year. The Shackleton bill would not go into effect until surrounding jurisdictions had passed similar measures and would require only a 5¢ deposit. This bill was favored by a majority of those testifying in behalf of container legislation.

William C. McKinney, director of the Department of Environmental Services, gave provisional support to the Shackleton bill. After citing the advantages of such legislation (including a savings in the number of trips to the landfill, lower refuse volume and less costs for cleaning catch basins, he pointed out several problems with the bills:

- o Neither measure provides for deposits on non-carbonated beverages, nor do they specifically ban non-refillables.

- o Trash collection problems could be created if vending machine operators replace throw-aways with paper cups, thus avoiding the deposit requirement.

- o There will be a need for three additional sanitation inspectors at a cost of \$36,000 per year.

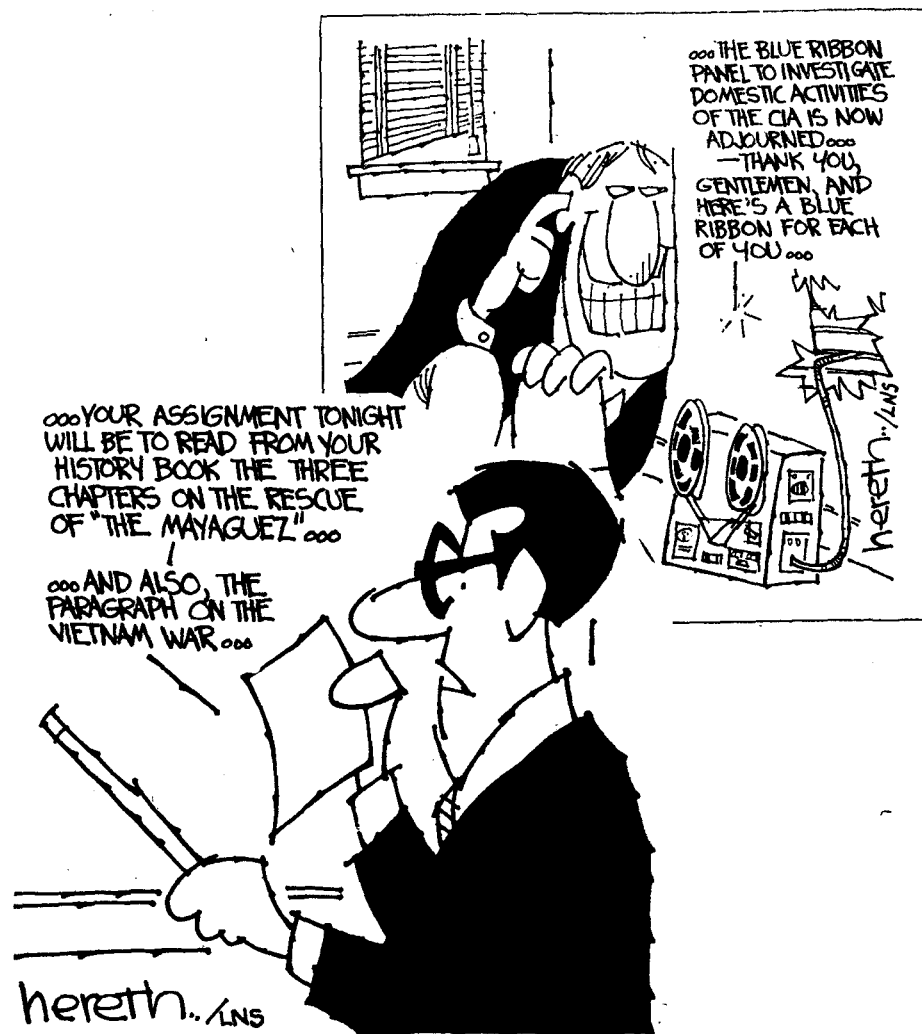
On the other hand, Ted Scheinman, an economic consultant, argued that 380 to 500 new jobs would be created in order to handle, sort and store the returnables, with a payroll of \$3.3 to \$4.4 million. Scheinman sees the possible loss of jobs in skilled industry offset by a shift to a more labor-intensive, lower skilled job market.

Thomas McMahon, representing the National Automatic Merchandizing Assn., rebutted McKinney's predictions of a proliferation of vending machines using paper cups, stating that conversion to cup vending would be minimal, due to the high costs of such conversion.

The industry's views on the proposed legislation, presented by the Retail Liquor Dealer's Association and several own-

ers of stores, centered on the lack of adequate storage and refrigeration space to accommodate returnables. Many of them also believed the deposit requirement to be an unfair burden on lower income families, especially those who use food stamps. This argument does not seem to take into account that there would be no additional costs involved after the first purchase of returnables, assuming that the bottles are returned or exchanged.

A recent Georgetown University survey indicated that 63% of those polled would favor some kind of beverage container legislation. Mayor Washington has indicated that he is now willing to sign such a bill if some of the problems underscored by McKinney are ironed out. A bill incorporating the good features of the Shackleton bill (5¢ deposit, \$50 fine) and the Hobson bill (implementation regardless of whether or not suburban jurisdictions enact similar legislation) could resolve the difficulties with both measures. This is an area in which the city could break new ground, encouraging suburban areas to pass similar legislation that is environmentally sound.



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# KEY CITY COUNCIL VOTES

| COUNCIL MEMBER    | VOTE 32 | VOTE 33 | VOTE 34 | VOTE 35 | VOTE 36 | VOTE 37 | VOTE 38 | VOTE 39 | VOTE 40 | VOTE 41 | VOTE 42 | VOTE 43 | VOTE 44 | VOTE 45 | VOTE 46 | CUMULATIVE + | CUMULATIVE - | NV | A  | RATING % | ABSENT % |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|----|----|----------|----------|
| Marion Barry      | +       | -       | NV      | -       | +       | +       | +       | -       | -       | -       | ?       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 22           | 16           | 2  | 5  | 55%      | 11%      |
| David Clarke      | +       | -       | +       | -       | -       | -       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 29           | 16           | 0  | 1  | 64%      | 2%       |
| James Coates      | +       | +       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | -       | +       | A       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 27           | 17           | 0  | 2  | 61%      | 4%       |
| Arrington Dixon   | +       | NV      | A       | NV      | NV      | NV      | NV      | NV      | -       | -       | ?       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 21           | 17           | 6  | 1  | 48%      | 2%       |
| Willie Hardy      | +       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | +       | 25           | 21           | 0  | 0  | 54%      | 0%       |
| Julius Hobson     | +       | A       | A       | A       | A       | A       | A       | A       | A       | +       | A       | A       | A       | A       | +       | 16           | 6            | 0  | 24 | 73%      | 52%      |
| Doug Moore        | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 29           | 14           | 0  | 3  | 67%      | 7%       |
| Jerry Moore       | +       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 19           | 22           | 0  | 5  | 46%      | 11%      |
| Polly Shackleton  | +       | +       | -       | +       | +       | -       | -       | -       | NV      | +       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 26           | 17           | 1  | 2  | 59%      | 4%       |
| William Spaulding | +       | +       | -       | -       | NV      | -       | +       | NV      | -       | -       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 20           | 22           | 4  | 0  | 44%      | 0%       |
| Sterling Tucker   | +       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 18           | 28           | 0  | 0  | 39%      | 0%       |
| John Wilson       | +       | -       | -       | +       | +       | -       | A       | A       | -       | -       | -       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 19           | 19           | 0  | 8  | 50%      | 17%      |
| Nadine Winter     | +       | -       | +       | -       | -       | -       | +       | -       | -       | -       | ?       | +       | +       | +       | +       | 23           | 21           | 1  | 0  | 51%      | 0%       |
| PRO               | 13      | 4       | 4       | 5       | 5       | 3       | 7       | 3       | 10      | 8       | VOICE   | 11      | 11      | 12      | 12      |              |              |    |    |          |          |
| CON               | 0       | 7       | 6       | 6       | 5       | 8       | 3       | 6       | 1       | 5       |         | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0       |              |              |    |    |          |          |
| Walter Washington | -       | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | -       | -       | -       | -       | 8            | 13           |    |    | 38%      |          |

OVERALL COUNCIL AVERAGE: 22 (+) votes 24 (-) votes: 49%

\*Awaiting mayor's action at presstime. The mayor has vetoed one key bill this year: the budget cuts proposed by the council. He has had one nomination (William Harps) rejected by the council and one reorganization plan (aging office) rejected by the council.

SHOWN above are recent votes of the city council. + = vote that agrees with our position. - = vote that doesn't agree with our position. If you do not agree with our position, simply switch the signs. A = Absent. NV = present but not voting. The percentage shown at right is the ratio between right votes and the total number of votes at which the council member was present. The final column indicates the absenteeism rate. To help give an idea of where Walter Washington stands in all of this, we score him on those issues where he has taken a clear stand or has signed or vetoed a bill.

32. Vote to reject the mayor's reorganization plan setting up an office of aging. The council will come up with an improved plan in the next few months. (+ = support)

33. Rent Control: Vote to reduce from 6% to 6% the permitted rate of return for landlords. (+ = support) This proposal was defeated.

33. Rent Control: Vote to remove tax benefits as a factor in determining landlords' income. (+ = opposition)

35. Rent Control: A simplified proposal from John Wilson that would have permitted the rent commission to raise rents up to 4% if it felt it was justified. Would have eliminated the complicated and probably unworkable standards set by the council. (+ = support).

36. Rent Control: Vote on eliminating the automatic passing on to tenants of utility rate increases. (+ = support)

37. Rent Control: Change the formula for computing rate of return from being based on market value to being based on the owner's actual equity in the property. (+ = support)

38. Rent Control: Strike from the bill the exemption for small landlords. (+ = support)

39. Rent Control: Strike from the bill the special exemptions for substantial rehabilitation. (+ = support)

40. Vote to table a measure that would have provided protections parallel to those of the Administrative Procedures Act to proceedings of the city council (+ = opposition)

41. Vote to permit landlords to deduct up to 2% of market value in depreciation for purposes of considering rate of return. (+ = opposition)

42. Vote to permit non-residents of the US to vote in Neighborhood Council elections. This would have given the franchise in NC elections to many of the city's latinos. (+ = support)

43. Vote to override the mayor's veto of the hiring and spending freeze contained in the council's budget. (+ = support).

44. Vote to restore \$1 million to the police budget. (+ = opposition).

45. Vote to override the mayor's veto of budget items. (+ = support)

46. Vote establishing boundaries and procedures for Neighborhood Council elections. (+ = support)

## COUNCIL BILLS

The evaluation of the bills below is based on the overall intent and language of the legislation. Bills listed as good may require important amendments and bad bills may have good parts. For the full bill, write or call the council member who introduced it.

### Good Bills

RESOLUTION TO SET UP A COMMISSION to come up with a new flag for the city (Arrington Dixon)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. A broad measure giving citizens access to much city information now difficult or impossible to obtain. Officials who violated the act would be liable for a \$1000 fine. (Dixon)

MINIMUM WAGE ACT FOR DOMESTIC AND HOUSEHOLD WORKERS. The minimum wage would be set at \$2.50/hour. (James Coates)

MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING ACT. This would insure that minority businesses get 25% of city contracts and 50% of general contractors' subcontracts on city jobs. It would also provide other protections for minority businesses in dealings with the city government. (James Coates)

RIGHTS OF ACTION ACT. This was quietly dropped in the hopper by Arrington Dixon but is an important proposal. It would give citizens the right to sue if they have been injured by action or inaction by DC officials; it would give any person to whom a duty arises under the law to compel an officer of the city to perform his or her duty; it would have the thirty day notice period for the DC Register based on the date of the postmark, not date of insertion; and would require full publication of required materials in the DC Register rather than permitting certain materials affecting the public to be omitted as is currently the case.

A RESOLUTION that would have the city government boycott Control Data, IBM, ITT and Motorola as part of the growing boycott of these firms for their participation in support of the South African economy. (James Coates)

SUBSIDIZED ADOPTION ACT. This would provide subsidies for those adopting children and adults who are substantially retarded. (Douglas Moore)

DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEES. Several resolutions that would set up special committees to investigate racial and sexual discrimination in hotels and motels, private universities and colleges and private hospitals. (Douglas Moore)

DATA COLLECTION RESOLUTION. This resolution would require the city to collect data by ward and census tract and to make such information available to the public. This would be of great aid to neighborhood groups. The resolution also would require the city to compile a bibliography of all publications, studies and reports prepared under the auspices of the city government. (Arrington Dixon)

ACT ON THE AGING. This is an alternative to the mayor's proposed office of the aging. It looks good although we would like to see money authorized for expenditure by neighborhood councils for services to the aging. There is no need to build one more downtown bureaucracy. (Polly Shackleton)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS SCHOLARSHIP ACT. This would provide scholarships for DC students going to public college in the city. (Arrington Dixon)

AMENDMENT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. This would add "past criminal status" to the list of items which may not be used as the basis for discrimination. (Willie Hardy)

AMENDMENT TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT to protect pregnant and formerly pregnant women from discrimination under the act. (John Wilson)

### Bills to Study

TAXI METER ACT. We have long opposed the introduction of taxi meters on two grounds: (1) the zone system, if equitably designed, provides the best assurance that the rider will be taken on the most direct route and (2) without meters, large corporate fleets are kept out of the city since meters are necessary for the firms to monitor their drivers. DC has one of the best cab systems in the country, but unfortunately that is not saying very much. Increasingly, drivers are refusing to take people where they want to go, service is scarce in many areas and complaints frequent. Our own frustration with the present system has led us to think that the meter idea is worth considering. We still don't like its invitation to higher fares and monopoly control but we should at least take a close look at meters. (John Wilson)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT. A complex bill providing for public financing of local elections. (Arrington Dixon)

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE REFORM ACT. This would make some significant changes in the car insurance regulations. (Jerry Moore).

METRO POLICE ACT. This would establish a Metro police force.

There may be some merit, although the way Metro handles everything else we'd hate to give them guns, too. (Arrington Dixon)

ELECTIONS ORGANIZATION ACT. This bill would reorganize the Board of Elections (Arrington Dixon)

PUBLIC OFFICIALS RECALL ACT. Would permit the recall of public officials and a new election upon the submission of the signatures of 50% of the eligible voters in the election at which the official was chosen. Our question with this bill is not on principle, but whether the 50% figure is right. (Arrington Dixon)

### Bad Bills

ELECTED SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ACT. This is a stupid bill that is sure to win the support of some of the same people who have been saying that there is too much politics in the school system. (James Coates)

## PUBLICATIONS

BUYING YOUR HOUSE: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO INSPECTION AND EVALUATION. By Joseph C. Davis and Claxton Walker. Davis is well known here as the able leader of the Citywide Housing Coalition. His new book, full of advice on buying a home, will be out in August published by Emerson Books. \$8.95

WALKING TOURS: WASHINGTON DC. Written by Tony Wrenn, this new and attractively presented set of walking tours is put out by the Preservation Press of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. \$1.50

CAPITOL HILL DIRECTORY 1975. The annual listing of businesses on Capitol Hill from the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, 124 7th St. SE, DC 20003

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL DIRECTORY - a guide to local and area governments is available free from the Council of Governments, 1225 Conn. Ave. NW, Suite 201, DC 20036.

THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: CURRENT STATUS AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES. A straight forward report from the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service by Nelson F. Rimsnyder.

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS FOR SALE. A pamphlet that explains the rise and causes of land speculation in the city and how the proposed speculation tax would work. From the Adams-Morgan Organization, 2431 18th St. NW, DC 20009

A COMPARISON OF STATE AND LOCAL TAX EFFORT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE FIFTY STATES. Department of Finance and Revenue, Fiscal Planning and Research.

THIS IS RLA. A slick pamphlet from the Redevelopment Agency, 1325 G NW, that attempts to prove that RLA is doing good things but between the lines you can find that it spends an incredible amount of money and does very little.

BEFORE YOU BUY A CONDOMINIUM: CONSUMER INFORMATION FROM COG. From the Council of Governments, 1225 Conn. Ave. NW (#201), DC 20036.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: A BIENNIAL REPORT 1973-1974. Why this expensive booklet, which includes three pages of photos of top environmental services officials, was ever printed is beyond us, but on the last page we did find some interesting information. The DES spent \$41.6 million in FY 73 and \$3 million more in FY 74. Meanwhile, the tons of solid waste declined from 196,000 to 189,000, the tons of street sweepings went down from 17,000 to 14,000 and the tons of sewage sludge declined from 155,000 to 113,000. You can get a copy from Albert Johnson at 629-5155.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

THE CITY COUNCIL will hold hearings on police surveillance on July 24-25 in the city council chamber at 10 am. To testify call Arlene Kelli-brew, 629-3806.

THE ZONING COMMISSION will hold a public hearing on massage parlors on July 2, 10 am, at the Departmental Auditorium, Conference Room B, Department of Labor, 14th & Constitution. Under the proposed regulation massage parlors would be restricted to commercial areas. Statements on this issue can be sent to the Zoning Commission, District Building, 14th & E NW, DC 20004. Cite case 75-4.

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING on a proposed no fault divorce bill before the city council on July 7 at 2 and 730 pm and on July 8 at 2 and 730 pm. Persons wishing to testify should contact Betty Mitchell at 638-2223 or 629-3806. Copies of the bill are available from Valerie Barry or Rachel Clay

in room 219 at city hall. Call them at 638-2223 or 629-3806.

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING on the status of the Board of Education and the organization and administration of the DC public schools on July 2 and 3 at 10 and 2 in the city council chamber. To testify call Alice Blue at 638-2223.

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING on the new supermarket computer check-out system on July 23, 10 am, at the city council chamber. Under the system, product prices are removed from items and only a code is shown, which is read by a computerized checkout machine. To testify, call Carrolena Key at 638-2223.

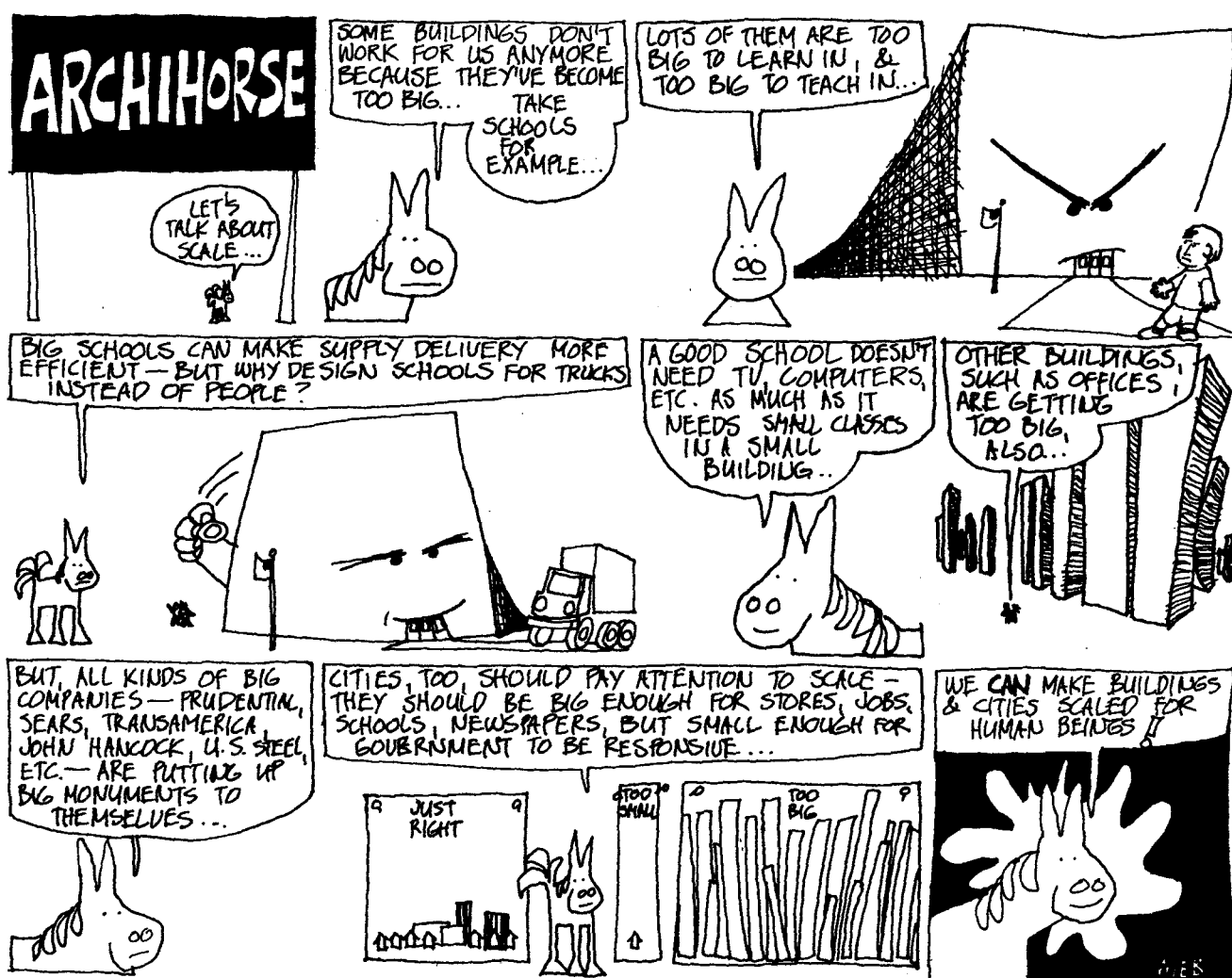
THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING on a proposed change in the DC air quality regulations that would permit the sale and use of coal and oil fuels with twice as sulphur con-

tent as would be permitted by the present law after July 1. To testify, call Gwen Bohlke at 638-2223 or 629-3806.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE students are needed (especially those who are multi-lingual) to assist foreign visitors in Washington in various ways, according to the International Visitors Service Council. To find out more about IVIS's Summer Corps call 872-8747.

REORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF SURVEYOR AND RECORDERS OF DEED INTO A SINGLE AGENCY. Public hearing, July 15, 2 and 730 pm, city council chamber. To testify contact Bruce French, 638-2223.

THE WIDENING HORIZONS PROGRAM of the DC Public Schools begins its 14th summer of career oriented tours on July 1. For more information on the Widening Horizons Program, write them at Bruce School Building, 770 Kenyon St. NW, DC 20010



TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ON THE HILL: Women's Self-Confidence Group plus summer courses: TA and the Arts. Call Lucy at 547-5248.



Because of the several errors in your June article "Trash Factory", I felt that as Chairman of the District of Columbia Council's Transportation and Environmental Affairs Committee, I should respond to it.

First, you say "Mayor Washington wants D.C. to enter into a \$10 million contract with Nixon intimate Donald Kendall's National Center for Resource Recovery...". The Mayor has in fact requested approval of \$9.6 million to build a resource recovery facility, but the contract will not be awarded to NCRR. It will either be bid on in open, competitive bidding or by a select group of engineering firms which have done this type of work and thus have the necessary expertise and competence.

Second, you say that "This plant will have a drastic impact on our environment since it will undermine a returnable bottle program...". At this point I see nothing which would support that statement. Two beverage container bills have been introduced, one co-sponsored by

myself. Recent hearings have been held on both. The bills have received wide support and very little was said during the hearings about the city's plans to build a resource recovery facility.

Finally, you mention the NCRR contract with New Orleans. That contract indeed was most unfortunate, but certainly can not be compared to what we are planning here in the District. The facility in New Orleans will recover only materials such as glass, aluminum, and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Thus, a decrease in the amount of these materials would have a serious economic impact on that facility. However, the facility being proposed for the District would also recover the combustible materials for sale to GSA and PEPCO. Thus, a decrease in the amount of glass and aluminum will not seriously impact the facility. Representatives from EPA and the D.C. Department of Environmental Services have said that both resource recovery and source reduction are compatible.

Since your paper has continually supported programs to improve the environment in the District, I hope you will lend your support to the beverage container bills, the resource recovery facility and other proposals for source reduction which the Committee hopes to develop,

Very sincerely yours,

*Jerry A. Moore, Jr.*  
Jerry A. Moore, Jr.  
Chairman, Transportation and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



# THROUGH DC BY BUS



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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